



Town of Wenham

Selectmen / Town Administrator

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: Peter Lombardi, Town Administrator
RE: Town Administrator's Report
DATE: September 25, 2018

Personnel

We have hired a new DPW Driver/Operator, Jonathan Keyes, who is set to begin work next week. This week, we are conducting interviews with a number of candidates to fill the part-time Finance Assistant & Payroll Coordinator and two full-time Police Officer positions and hope to fill those vacancies as early in October as possible.

Enon One Ceremony

Our historic hand pumper was delivered this past weekend. Landscaping work around the new structure will be completed in the next 2 weeks. To commemorate its return to Town, a formal ribbon cutting ceremony is set to take place at its new home behind Town Hall on Saturday October 13.

Pingree Park Public Garden

Last week, the Hamilton-Wenham Garden Club completed their initial planting work at the Pingree Park Public Garden. Our DPW did a tremendous amount of site work, including preparing the soil, excavating the paths, installing the edging and boulders, clearing brush, and running a new water line down from the maintenance building. Our Tree Warden coordinated removing several trees, completing safety pruning, and planting a few new trees. It has been an outstanding group effort to date! More plantings and some additional site amenities such as benches and a picnic table are planned for next spring.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

The Town was originally awarded \$20k in grant funding in May 2018 through this program to go through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness planning process and to update our Hazard Mitigation Plan. The state recently approved an increase in our grant award to \$25k to fully cover all project costs. After reviewing consultant submittals and conducting interviews, we have selected Weston & Sampson to take the lead on this work over the next several months. Once we have attained the MVP designation and have an approved HMP in place, we will then be eligible for both MVP Action and FEMA grant funding for priority infrastructure projects to address the priorities identified through this process.

Positive West Nile Virus Mosquito Tests

We had 1 new positive mosquito test for West Nile Virus at the Iron Rail property last week. Previously, we had 2 such positive tests at this location at the beginning of the month. The Board of Health continues to encourage all residents to take preventative action against mosquito bites through the end of the season (until after the first hard frost) as the entire state remains at the Moderate risk level. Mosquito prevention information has been posted at Pingree Park Playground and parking lot; Iron Rail fields and tenant parking; WVIS Tennis Courts and playground; and the Buker fields and playground; and all relevant school officials have been notified. The Board of Health will be meeting on this matter in Town Hall tomorrow morning at 8AM.